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Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 222998

FOLLOWING REPEAT NEW DE 13102 ACTION SECSTATE INFO PARIS
SEP 6

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 13102

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:CIEC, IN

SUBJ: SUGGESTION BY GOI HEAD OF DELEGATION-CIEC

1. IN DISCUSSION WITH ECONCOUNS, V.K. AHUJA, SECRETARY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, MEA, AND HEAD OF INDIAN DELEGATION TO CIEX, SAID HE WOULD BE IN PARIS ON THE 9TH TO TALK WITH SOME INDIVIDUAL DELEGATIONS. HE WOULD PARTICIATE IN THE G-19 DISCUSSION ON THE 10TH AND 11TH AND THEN DEPART ON THE 12TH FOR MEXICO CITY. AMBASSADIR VAIDYA WOULD ATTEND REGULAR SESSION OF CIEC BEGINNING THE 13TH.

2. HE THOUGH MOST COUNTRIES IN BOTH G-8 AND G-19 WANTED CIEC TALKS TO RESUME BUT HE EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT THE DCS HAD POLITICAL WILL TO SEE DISCUSSIONS DEVELOP BEYOUND THE TAKING STAGE.

3. AHUJA'S MAIN EMPHASIS IN DISCUSSION WAS ON FINDING SOME MEANS FOR TRANSFER OF RESOURCES MOR EQUITABLE TO LDCS.
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IN THIS REGARD HE OFFERED IDEA WHICH HE INSISTED WAS

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COMPLETELY HIS OWN AND WAS NOT OFFICIAL GOI OFFER. HE
SUGGESTED THAT SOME MULTILATERAL ARRANGEMENT TO CONVERT ALL
OFFICIAL DEBTS DONOR COUNTRIES NOW HAVE WITH POORER LDCS TO
SOFT TERMS "ALONG LINES IDA" WOULD BE WORTH EXPLORING.

4. HIS ARGUMENTS WERE THAT THIS ARRANGEMENT WOULD PERMIT
LONG-TERM PLANNING BY LDC'S VICE PRSENT ANNUAL RESCHEDULING
EXERCISE. IT WOULD BE MUTILATERAL IN CONTEXT, AVOIDING
INDIVIDUAL BILATERAL PROBLEMS (HE ESPECIFICALLY REFERRED
TO INDIA'S PROBLEMS WIHT THE PASSMAN/LONG COMMITTEE).
IT WOULD ALSO AVOID STIGMA OF DEBT FORGIVENESS WHICH
INDIA, WITH ITS RECORD OF PROMPT REPAYMENTS, DID NOT WANT.
ECONCOUNS PROMISED RELAY IDEA TO DEPARTMENT UNOFFICIALLY
AND INFORM AHUJA OF REACTION.

5. WE ARE NOT AWARE IF SUCH AN IDEA HAS BEEN FLOATED
BEFORE AND, IF SO, WHAT USG REACTION WAS. WE FIND IT
INTERESTING HERE BECAUSE IT IS PRESUMABLY BEING AUTHORED
BY AHJUA WHO, IN LAST DISCUSSION WITH EMBASSY, SEEMED
TO TAKE STRONG UNCOMPROMISING STANCE IN SUPPORT OF G-19
POSITIONS IN CIEC. THAT HE IS NOW SUGGESTING ANY COMPROMISE
IS IN OUR VIEW WORTH ENCOURAGING.

6 . EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S REACTION TO
AHUJA'S SUGGESTION. SAXBE
UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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